

10 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: AmComLib Spanish Base

This memorandum is for your information in dealing with the Bureau of the Budget regarding the proposed Spanish base for Radio Liberation.

1. Subject Project designed to increase the power of Radio Liberation broadcasts into the USSR, was approved by DCI, with the concurrence of the 5412 representatives, on 25 September 1957. It calls for the construction within a three-year period of a Radio Liberation transmitting facility in the Barcelona area at a total capital cost of \$4,135,000 and an eventual operating cost of \$1,635,000 annually.

2. Funds in the amount of \$4,400,000 were requested of the Budget Bureau as a release from the Agency contingency reserve under date of 17 October to cover the entire three-year capital cost (\$4,135,000), plus \$265,000 for operating costs in FY 1958. This leaves it incumbent upon the Agency to provide from its regular budget operating costs of \$865,000 for FY 1959 and \$1,635,000 for FY 1960 and subsequent years. (See Tab 1)

3. The necessity for early action on the request to the Budget Bureau to enable AmComLib both to live up to its agreement with the Spanish Government and to get the facility on the air at the earliest possible moment, is explained in the memorandum to the DCI from C/IO, 20 December 1957, attached hereto as Tab 8.

4. Mr. Macy of the Budget Bureau recently has raised the following questions:

a. Do Radio Liberation broadcasts to the Soviet Union adhere to U.S. national policy?

b. Would a merger

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b. Would a merger of AmComLib with the Free Europe Committee achieve economies?

In an attachment to the memorandum to DCI from AC/IO of 26 December (Tab 9) detailed answers to these questions are provided. In summary, they are:

a. Radio Liberation broadcasts do conform to U.S. national policy, and

b. Policy considerations make such a merger impracticable.

In support of the answer to question a., there is attached (Tab 10), the draft of a policy to govern Radio Liberation broadcasts to the Soviet Union which has been worked out with the Department of State for the approval of the inter-agency Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy. This approval is expected to be forthcoming shortly. The policy draft makes no change in the program approach followed by Radio Liberation for the last two years.

5. Previously, Mr. Macy had inquired what the monitoring reports showed as to the need for a Radio Liberation base in Spain. He was provided with a detailed answer to this question, a copy of which is appended (Tab 6). Additional justification of the Spanish operation is detailed in the attached documentation (Tabs 2 and 3).

CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief

International Organizations Division

Attachments -13
Documentation on AmComLib
Spanish Project.

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to

DOCUMENTATION ON AMCOMLIB SPANISH PROJECT

Summary of Spanish proposal as approved by 54/12 Representatives

TABS

1. Summary of funds needed over three year period, with itemized breakdown attached.
2. Justification of Spanish site; with supporting TPIB and Schramm Conference recommendations.
3. Description of Spanish operation and justification of high power.
4. Description of negotiations and agreement with Spanish Government.
5. Chronology of policy decisions, with excerpts from external policy actions.
6. Summary of Soviet jamming effort; its effect on Radio Liberation as shown by monitoring reports; estimate of Radio Liberation's listening audience.
7. Adverse effects of AmComLib non-fulfillment of agreement with Spanish Government.
8. Memo. to DCI from C/IO, 20 December 1957.
9. Memo. to DCI from AC/IO, 26 December 1957.
10. Draft of U.S. policy on Gray Broadcasting to USSR.
11. Chart showing present coverage from Lampertheim.
12. Chart showing complementary coverage from Spain.
13. Basic data on Radio Liberation.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

VIA: Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

SUBJECT: Radio Liberation Invents Automatic Monitoring Device.

This memorandum is for information only.

1. Radio Liberation network engineers in Munich have developed an automatic radio broadcast monitoring device described by the Electromagnetic Warfare Branch of ONI as an important advance toward the automation of the measurement of technical effectiveness of shortwave broadcasts and the jamming thereof.

2. The device, known as the Program Readability Analysis Gues (PRAG), was produced in the course of Radio Liberation's continuing research and experimentation in the fields of propagation of shortwave broadcast signals and jamming. Results of field and laboratory tests have been of considerable interest to ONI and to other members of the U.S. international broadcasting community as a possible aid to the current program of monitoring U.S. broadcasts behind the iron curtain. ONI has indicated an intention to recommend installation of the instruments in the Embassies at Moscow and Warsaw for trial purposes. Through its staff in Frankfurt, ONI meanwhile is supplying certain logistic support to Radio Liberation engineers in Munich to assist in PRAG's further development.

3. PRAG is an electronic device, requiring no attendant, which records in printed graph form the degree of intelligibility of a broadcast signal under conditions of interference and jamming. It performs automatically a job which now requires the services of human auditors, a most important consideration where personnel for monitoring work is limited or unavailable, as is the case in diplomatic posts throughout the Soviet bloc. The device also provides other technical information not readily available otherwise, such as the frequency drift of a jammer and other jamming peculiarities.

4. The instrument's

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4. The instrument's component parts consist of a multi-channel radio receiver, a frequency analyzer, and a sweep printer. The receiver is pre-tuned to each of fifteen broadcast channels. A switching arrangement selects any five of these in turn. The frequency analyzer breaks the jammer signal as well as the broadcast signal into small elements, and the printer records permanently on paper the relative strength of the signal elements. The device operates for eight seconds on a given broadcast channel and then moves on to the next. In this way, a systematic and continual log of the broadcast and the jammer or interfering signal is recorded.

5. An analysis of a three-day sample of FMS records demonstrates that an experienced interpreter can definitively identify those portions of a broadcast signal which have "good" or "nil" audibility. The "fair" to "poor" broadcast signals cannot be so readily categorized. To some extent, however, the same indecision regarding signals in the middle range of intelligibility also characterizes the judgment of human monitors. A comparison of the FMS results with those obtained by human monitors yielded a 90% agreement of observations.

6. The expected advantages and disadvantages of FMS may be summed up as follows:

Advantages

- a. Augmentation of the current monitoring program behind the Iron Curtain;
- b. Uniformity of results;
- c. Continuous monitoring on selected channels; and
- d. Unattended observations.

Disadvantages

- a. FMS equipment is more complex;
- b. Maintenance is more difficult; and
- c. Interpretation of results have not yet been completely validated.

7. We are indebted to OSI for the support and encouragement given to Radio Liberation technicians in this work by the personnel of its Electromagnetic Warfare Branch.

CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief
International Organizations
Division

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